

I write in opposition to the NAB's petition 04-160.  
"Local" radio has been a joke ever since the passage of the 1996 Telecommunications Act. Local ownership of radio stations has evaporated. Media ownership consolidation has brought us computerized, homogenized, syndicated programming that merely winks at the licensing requirement to provide local service. In light of this, the NAB's petition to limit satellite radio's ability to provide local traffic and weather information is silly.

I live about 50 miles north of Philadelphia, and really couldn't care less about local Philly news and sports. When I'm driving to Philadelphia, I can tune to XM Satellite radio and hear minute-by-minute updates of traffic and weather conditions. I don't have to wade through ten minutes of static, commercials and useless information on a terrestrial station I can barely receive to get to the next traffic report, which may be too late to do me any good.

On a broader perspective, I am travelling to Los Angeles in June. I am already listening to XM's LA traffic reports to help me plan where to stay and how to get around. Forewarned is forearmed, and what I'm learning from XM about LA's chronic backups is helping me be a more efficient traveller. I'm paying for this XM service, and it's more than worth it.

I respectfully urge you to reject the NAB's petition 04-160 that would limit Satellite Radio's ability to inform subscribers about local traffic and weather conditions. The NAB is asking you to protect an oligarchy that has corrupted the concept of "local service" and no longer serves the public interest. The NAB's argument might have been relevant in the 1930's when there was real concern about too few voices controlling limited spectrum space. But we've moved far beyond that. The FCC has permitted a few giants to own the spectrum, in absolute contradiction of the spirit of the Communications Act of 1935. Local ownership of radio stations has evaporated. Thankfully, there are other outlets... cable, internet, satellite radio. Live up to the spirit of the Communications Act and foster service, diversity and competition.

Please don't limit my access to information and slow down the development of 21st century communication technologies.

Thanks for reading my opinion

Jon Little  
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